

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD **BEACH ROAD STUDY** — VINEYARD HAVEN, TISBURY —



## **Public Meeting #1**

Virtual Meeting | December 6, 2023 | 6:30 PM EDT



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- To unmute audio - Alt + A toggles audio off/on



- To show video - Alt + V toggles video off/on



- Raise your hand - \*9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand



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Live Transcript

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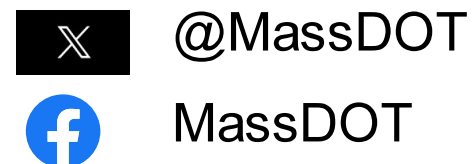
- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

**All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**



# Thank You for Your Support

## MassDOT Facebook and Twitter:



## Municipal Organizations:

Town of Tisbury

## Community Organizations and Others:

Island Housing Trust

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Steamship Authority

Registry of Motor Vehicles

Vineyard Haven Public Library

Vineyard Power



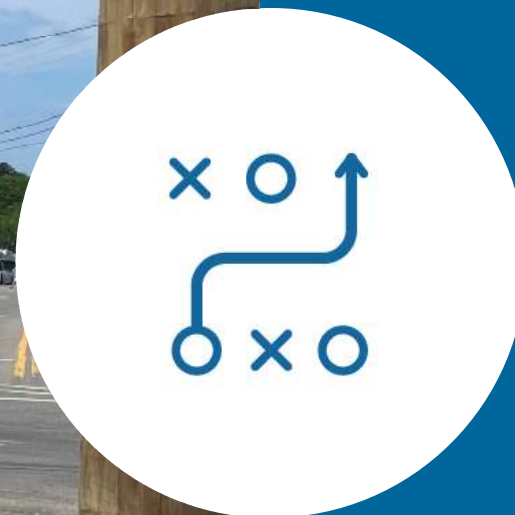
## Agenda

- 01 Project Goals
- 02 Existing Conditions
- 03 Flood Vulnerability
- 04 Safety Analysis
- 05 Next Steps
- 06 Public Comment Period



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHd0z44hTQc>





# Project Goals



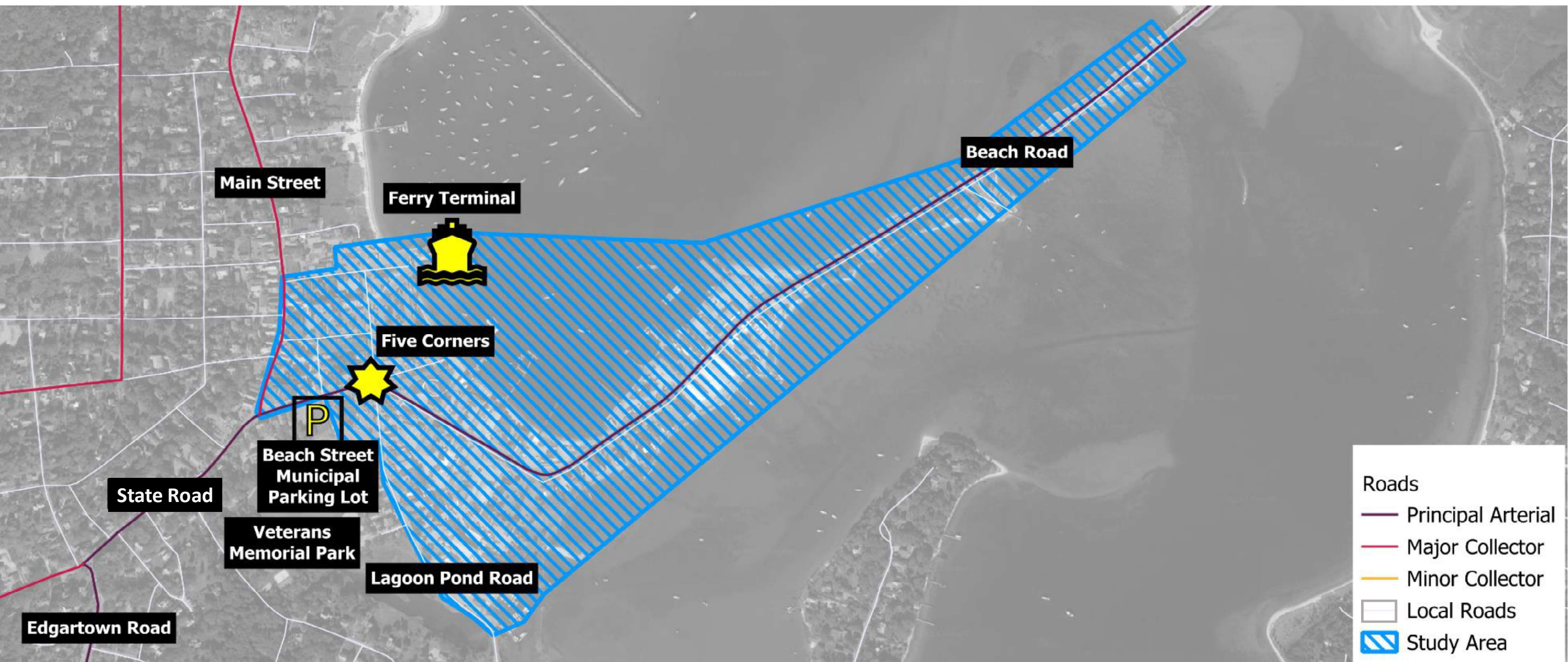
## Goals and Objectives

- **Evaluate roadway improvements** at Five Corners and on Beach Road to increase safety and comfort for all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, trucks, and buses.
  - Acknowledge and build on work done 2015-2021
- Address **current and potential future flooding**
- **Involve local stakeholders**

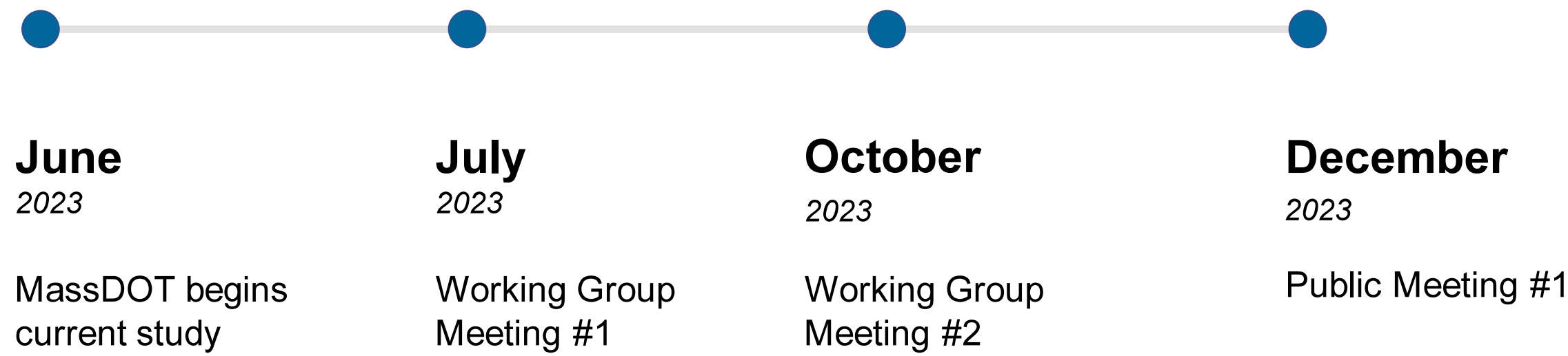




# Study Area



# How did we get here?





## Members of the Working Group

- MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
- MassDOT Highway Division Highway Design Section
- MassDOT Highway Division District 5
- MassDOT Legislative Affairs
- Office of State Senator Julian Cyr
- Office of State Representative Dylan Fernandes
- Town of Tisbury, Staff
- Town of Tisbury, Planning Board
- Town of Tisbury, Department of Public Works
- Town of Tisbury, Director, Department of Public Works
- Town of Tisbury, Climate Committee
- Town of Tisbury, Open Space and Recreation Committee
- Town of Tisbury, Water Resources Committee
- Martha's Vineyard Commission
- Steamship Authority
- University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center



**Existing  
Conditions**



## Site Visit and Observations

- **A live camera** overlooks the Five Corners intersection. The study team has observed traffic patterns in the intersection and the behavior of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.
- **A site visit** was conducted by the study team in August 2023. The team:
  - Measured the sight distance for approaches to Five Corners.
  - Took photographs to document the conditions of sidewalks, curb ramps, and bicycle lanes.





## Pedestrian Conditions

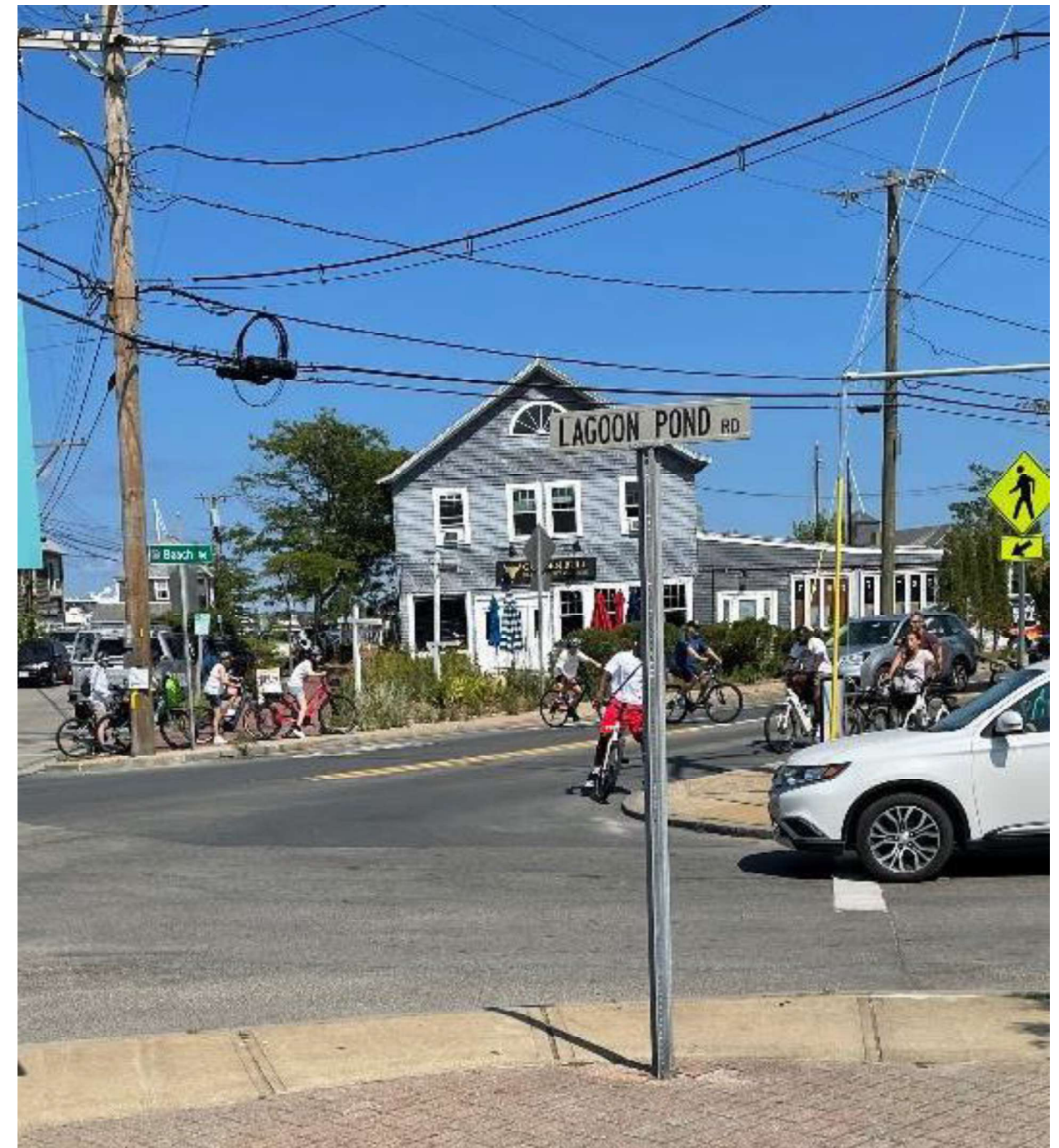
- The study area sees a **large volume of pedestrian traffic**, due to the nearby ferry, bus stops, and other destinations
- **Sidewalks and curb ramps are not always sufficient.**
- Large vehicles (buses) were noted to **encroach on the narrow sidewalks** to complete turning movements





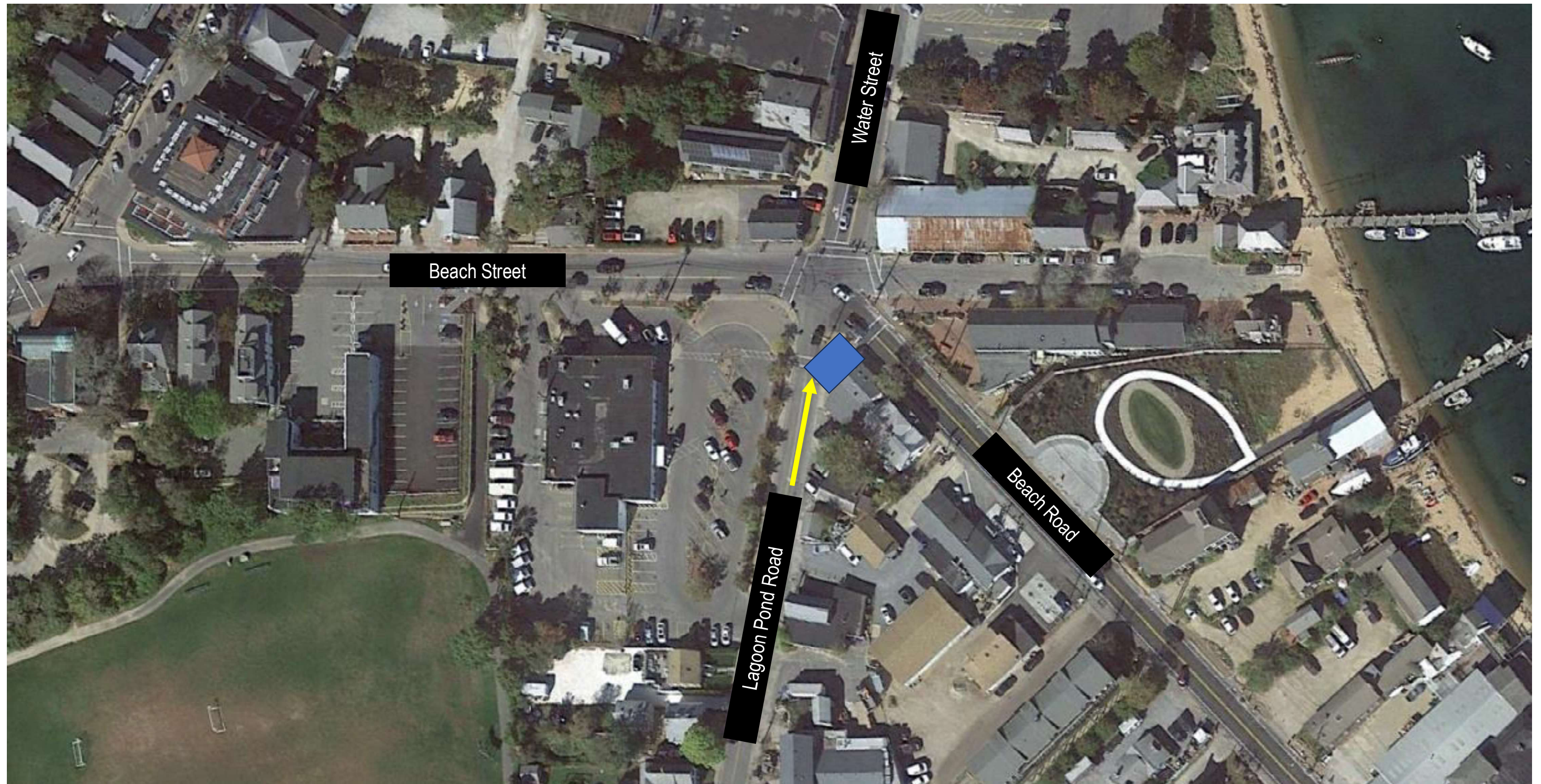
## Bicycle Conditions

- The study area sees a **large volume of bicycle traffic**, due to the nearby ferry, bus stops, and other destinations.
- The study area includes a **gap in the island-wide bicycle network**, between bike lanes on Beach Road and Beach Street.



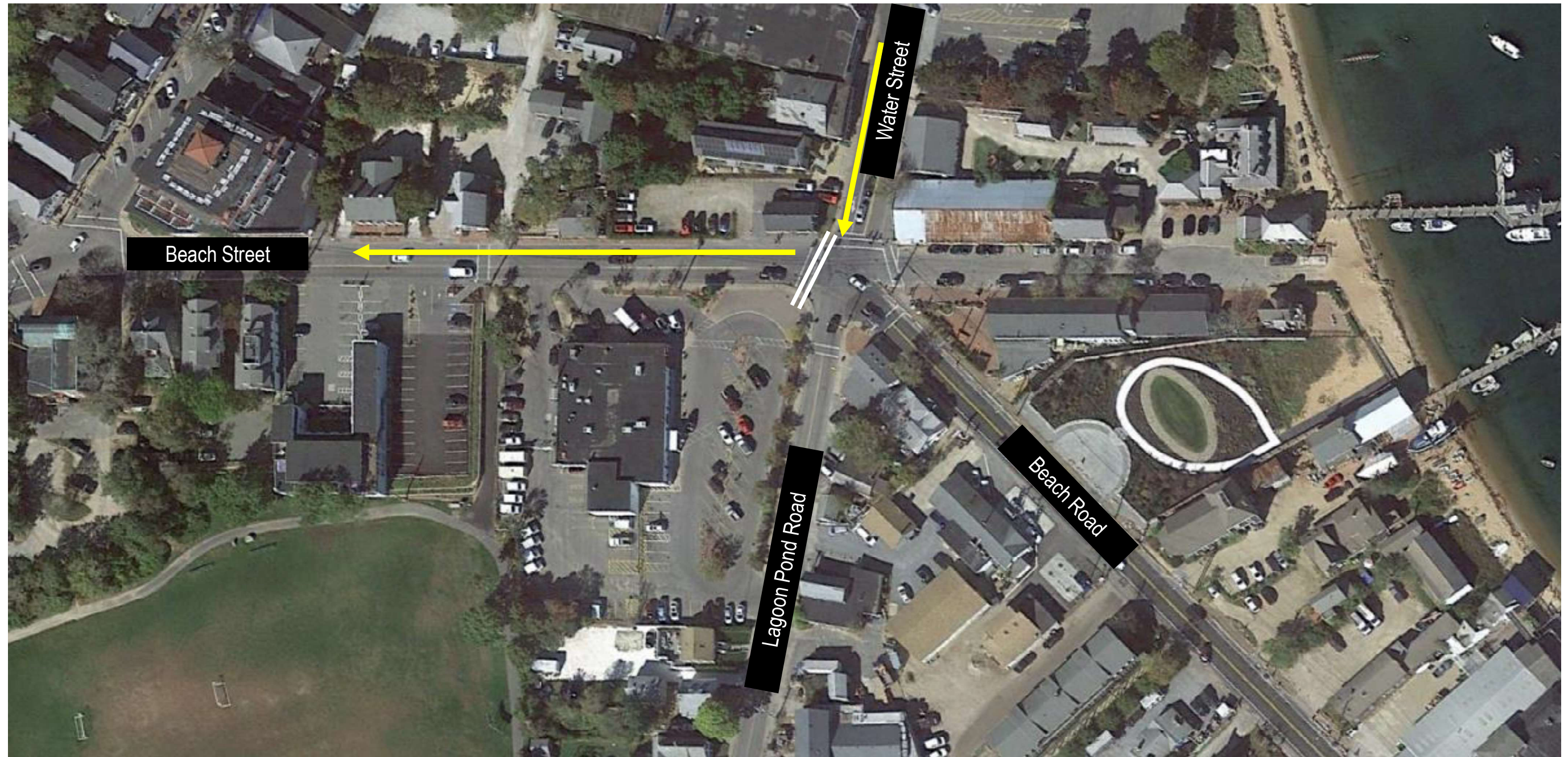


## Sight lines on most corners meet minimum standards





## Turning radius from Water Street to Beach Street is too tight for large vehicles

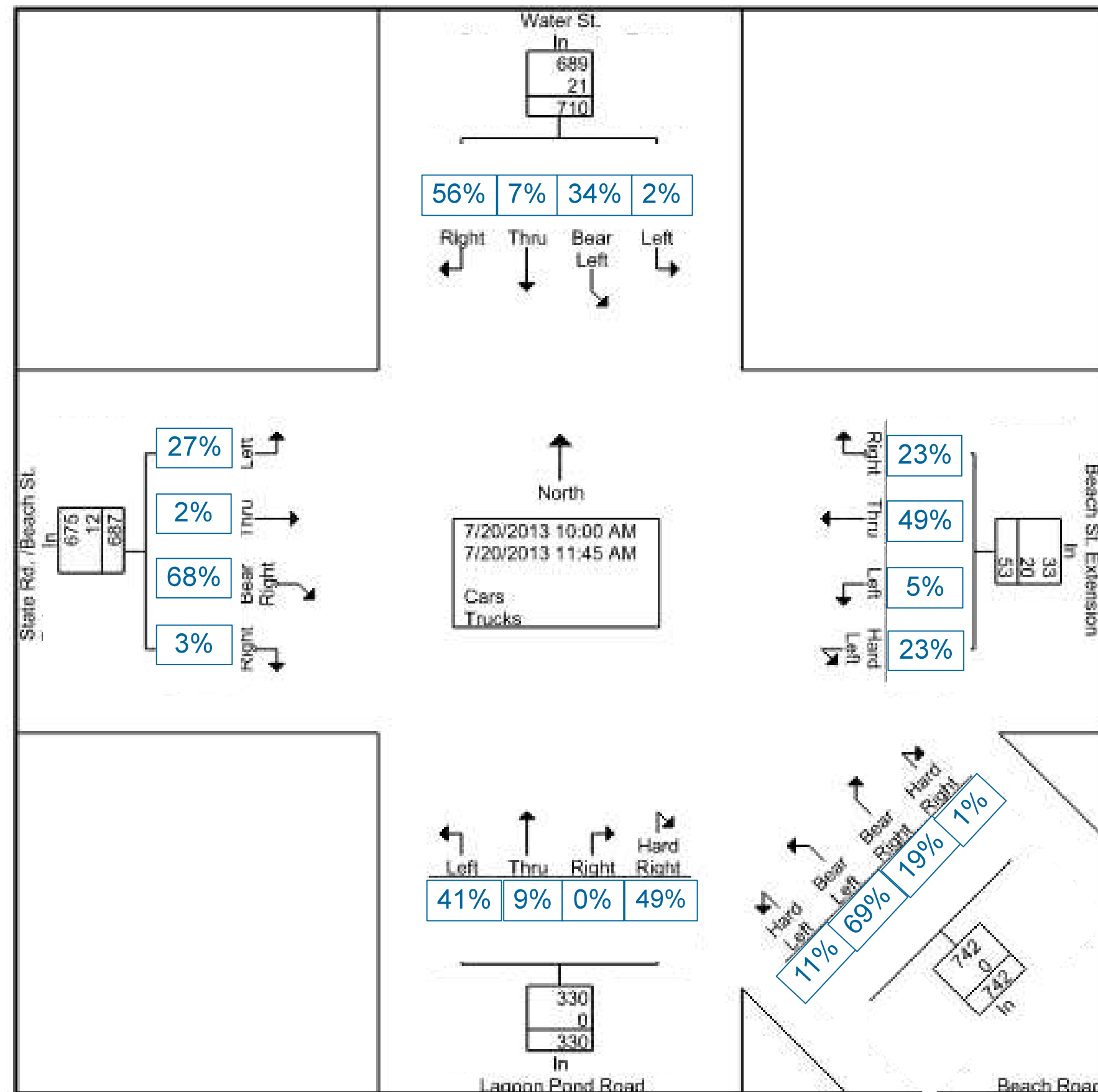




# Historic Turning Movement Counts

## Weekday Peak Period

- The majority of weekday peak traffic traverses Five Corners from Beach Street to Beach Road and vice-versa.
- Substantial traffic also turns onto both Beach Street and Beach Road from the northern and southern approaches.
- The initial data were collected in 2013.
- The study team considers 2013 data representative due to limited changes in the study area since that time.

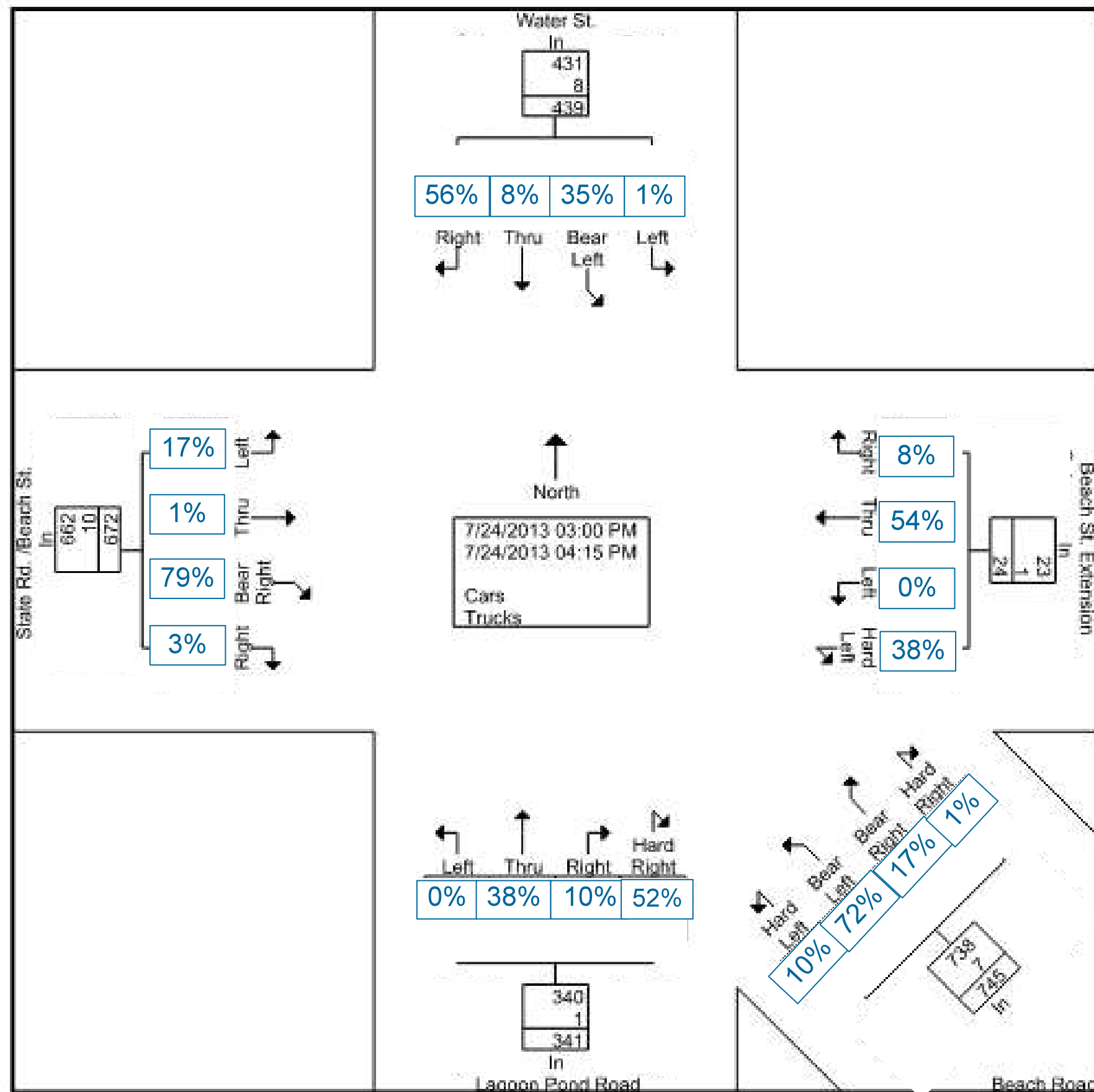




# Historic Turning Movement Counts

## Saturday Peak Period

- Traffic volume on Beach Street and Beach Road (including turning movements) does not change substantially between weekdays and Saturdays.
- The Beach Street-Beach Road pair is the main thoroughfare in the area.**
- The initial data were collected in 2013.



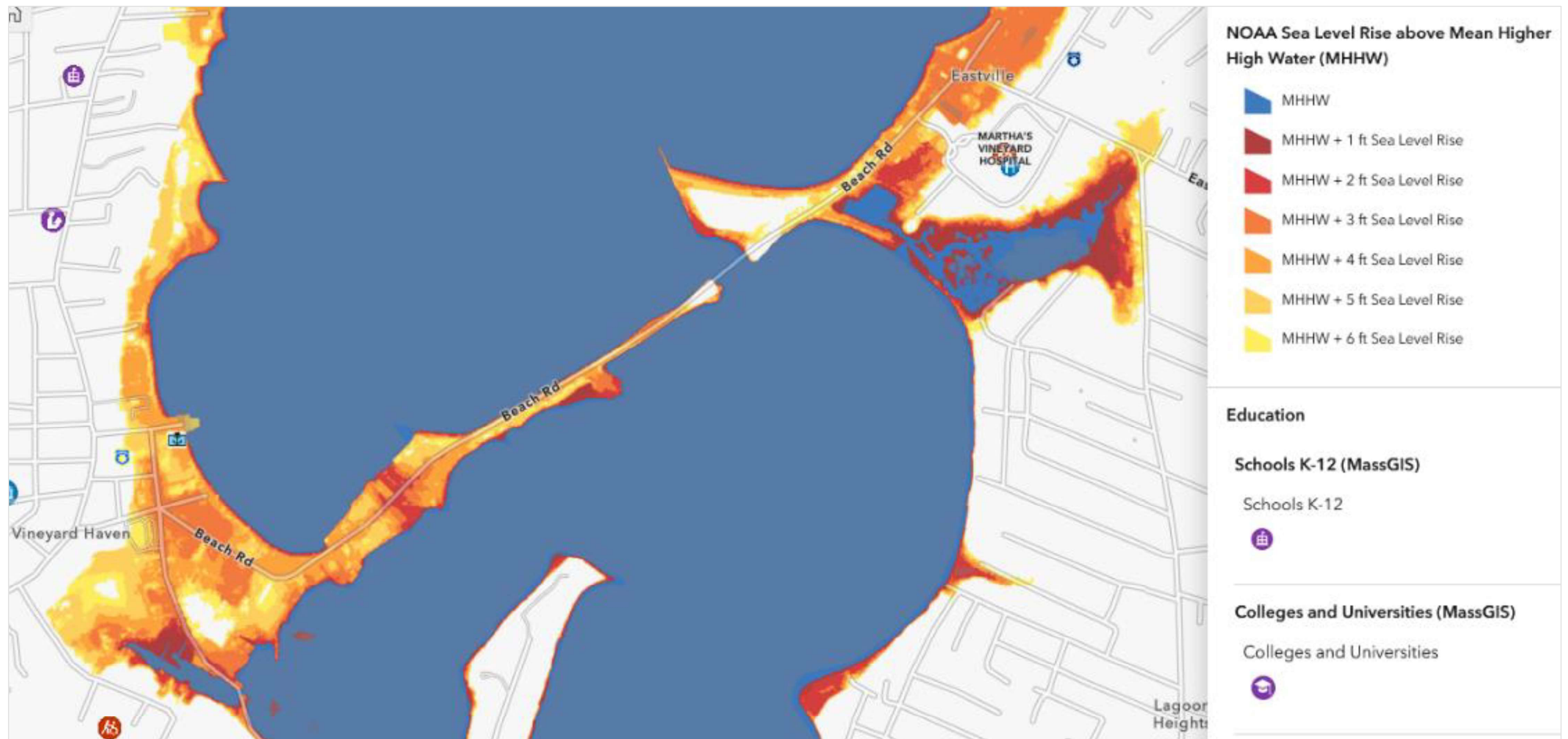




# Flood Vulnerability



## Flood Vulnerability – Exposure to Sea Level Rise



Source: [Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model](#)

## Flood Vulnerability (cont.)

- Current main drainage outfall, located at the foot of Beach Road Extension, faces regular blockage issues due to debris
- MassDOT Highway Division Headquarters and District 5 are evaluating drainage and stormwater improvements on the State Highway, including State Road, Beach Street, and a portion of Beach Street Extension.
- Drainage solutions being considered by the Town of Tisbury for Veterans Park



Source: Martha's Vineyard Commission,  
Stormwater Management Systems Town of  
Tisbury, MA  
Lines display outfall pipes.





# Safety Analysis



## Five Corners

Three clear crash clusters appear in Downtown Vineyard Haven (data from 2018-2022):

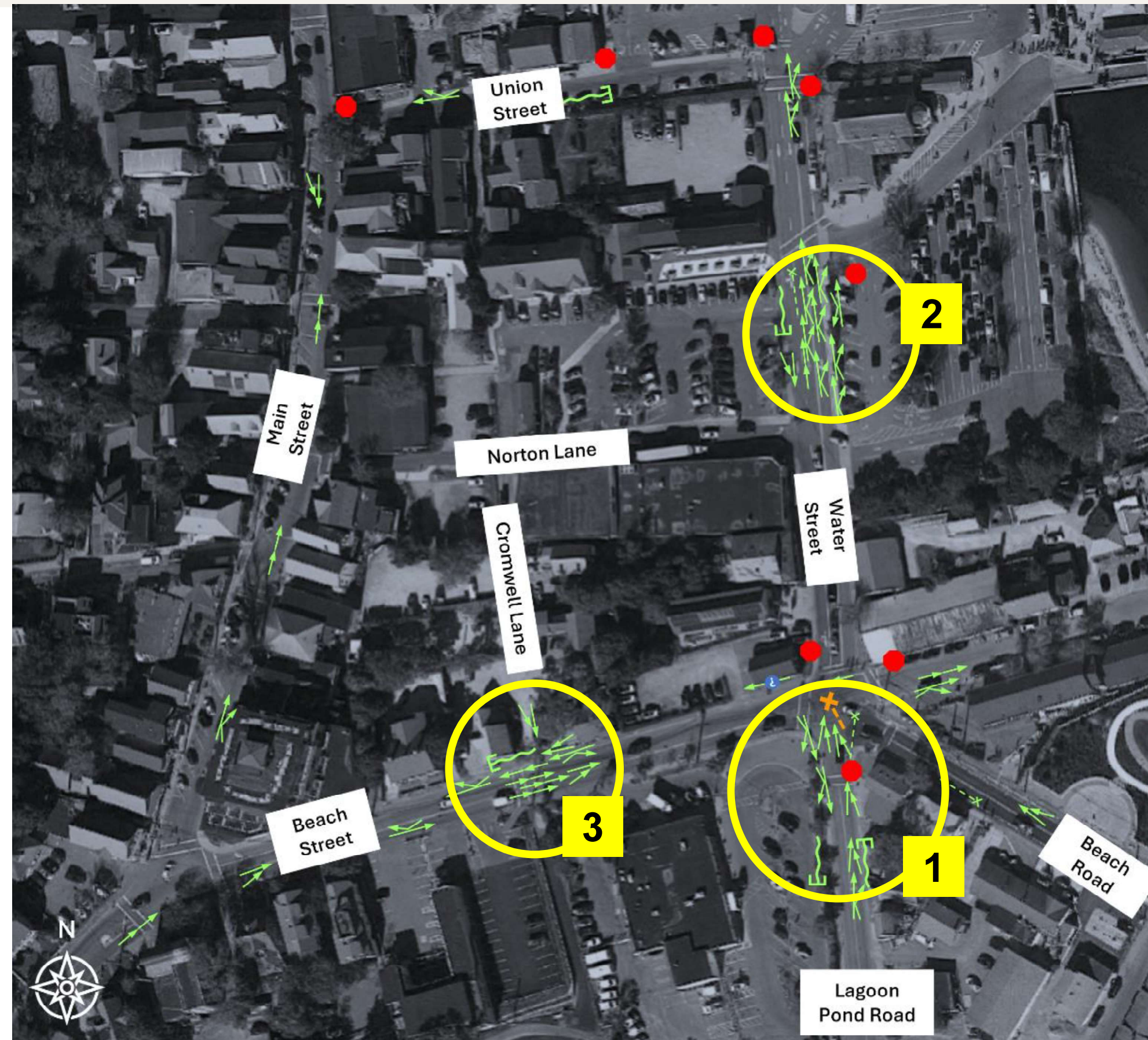
1. The Lagoon Pond Road entry to- and exit from- Beach Street
2. Stretch of Water Street northbound entering the ferry terminal
3. Stretch of the intersection between Beach Street and the Cromwell Lane alley

### LEGEND

- Rear End
- ↗ Angle
- Head On
- ↗ Side-Swipe Passing
- ↗ Side-Swipe Meeting
- Pedestrian & Cyclist
- Fixed Object
- ⓘ Other
- Stop Sign

### SEVERITY

- Fatality
- Serious Injury
- Other





# Southwest Area

A crash cluster exists on the western side of the bend in Beach Road, going in both directions.

- A contributing factor could be that drivers might speed up when approaching the intersection from Beach Street due to the difference in prescribed speed limits between Beach Road (30 mph) and Beach Street (20 mph)

## LEGEND

- Rear End
- ↗ Angle
- Head On
- ↔ Side-Swipe Passing
- ↔ Side-Swipe Meeting
- Pedestrian & Cyclist
- ~ Fixed Object
- ⓘ Other
- Stop Sign

## SEVERITY

- Fatality
- Serious Injury
- Other







**Next Steps**



## Needs - Roadway

- **Five Corners accommodates:**
  - First responders (State Police and ambulances)
  - Buses
  - Bicyclists
  - Pedestrians
  - Local island traffic
  - Ferry traffic
  - Personal travel
  - Freight
  - Businesses
- **Intersection is not controlled and operates informally**
  - Operations require good sightlines and awareness
  - Two crashes causing injury at Five Points between 2018 and 2022, both involving a pedestrian or cyclist
  - 20 crashes causing injury in study area between 2018 and 2022, one fatal



## Needs - Vulnerability

- **Rising sea levels pose extreme vulnerabilities in the study area**
  - Several areas in Vineyard Haven face high risk of flooding.
  - Critical infrastructure will be severely impacted.
- **Drainage is a challenge in Tisbury**
  - Current outfalls face blockage issues.
  - Drainage solutions being evaluated by the Town of Tisbury and MassDOT (Project #609459).





## Conceptual Design Alternatives

- **MassDOT will develop three conceptual design alternatives**
  - High level concepts to inform detailed designs for a potential project
  - High level cost estimates
  - Evaluate and minimize possible impacts to neighboring properties
- **Elements of conceptual design alternatives may include**
  - Lighting, placemaking, wayfinding, landscaping, and signage
  - Improvements targeted toward flood vulnerability:
    - Elevation change for roads, paths, and sidewalks
    - Drainage structures
    - Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
  - Complete streets improvements
    - Improved pedestrian accommodations
    - Improved bicycle accommodations
    - Change in intersection controls and operational improvements





# Next Steps



Winter 2023/24

Develop 3 conceptual alternatives



Winter 2024

Working Group meeting #3



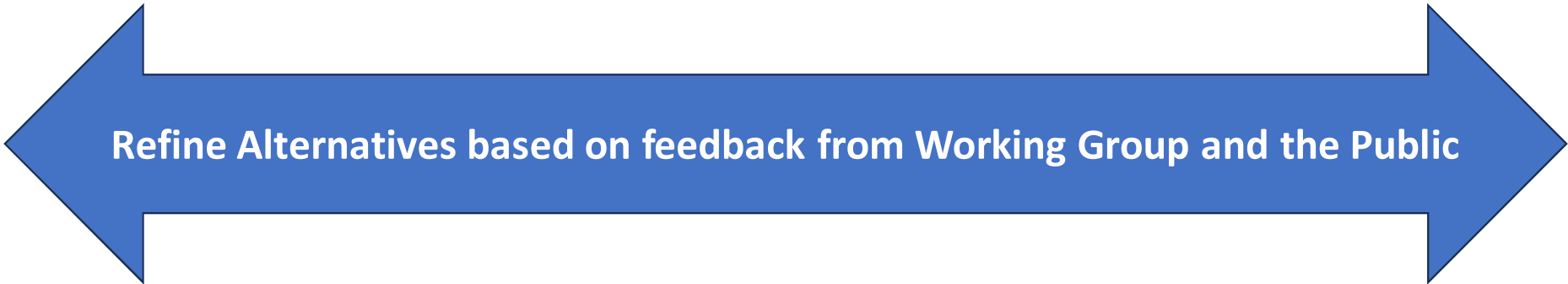
Winter 2024

Public Meeting #2



Spring 2024

Final Report and Recommendations







# Questions and Comments



## Share Your Questions and Comments



Chat



- Submit your questions and comments; (Alt + H)
- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions; (Alt + Y)
- Please state your name before your question
- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate.
- To ask a question via phone, dial \*9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.
- Please take a moment to take the survey on your experience after this meeting

**Please be advised that all comments are subject to disclosure for public records, therefore use these functions for project-related business only.**



## How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:  
Office of Transportation Planning  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4150  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: Multimodal Planning
- Submit email comments to:  
[planning@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:planning@dot.state.ma.us)
- For project information visit the MassDOT website at:  
<https://www.mass.gov/marthas-vineyard-beach-road-study>







# MARTHA'S VINEYARD *BEACH ROAD STUDY* — VINEYARD HAVEN, TISBURY —



## Thank You

Virtual Public Meeting | December 6, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. EDT

Project Manager: Patrick Snyder

[planning@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:planning@dot.state.ma.us)